

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

MAY 03 2006

Certificate Of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at telephone number (571) 273-8300 on May 3, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Byron S. Kumara
Registration Number 51,255
Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of) Art Unit: 3728
Frederick J. DOJAN, et al.) Examiner: Kavanaugh, J.
Serial Number 10/767,211) Attorney Reference: 005127.00275
Filed: January 28, 2004)
For: ARTICLE OF FOOTWEAR HAVING A)
FLUID-FILLED BLADDER WITH A)
REINFORCING STRUCTURE)

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 27, 2006, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 51-64, 96-109, and 116-118. A complete listing of claims pending in the application following entry of this Amendment are presented as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An article of footwear having an upper and a sole structure secured to the upper, the sole structure comprising:

a bladder formed of a barrier material, the bladder enclosing a fluid capable of exerting an outward force upon the barrier material; and

a reinforcing structure at least partially recessed into the barrier material and bonded to the barrier material, at least a portion of the reinforcing structure being placed in tension by the outward force upon the barrier material,

wherein each of the bladder and reinforcing structure form a portion of an exterior surface of the footwear, and the bladder and the reinforcing structure are substantially co-planar at an interface on the exterior surface between the bladder and the reinforcing structure.

2. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 1, wherein the bladder includes a first surface, an opposite second surface, and a sidewall extending between the first surface and the second surface.

3. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 2, wherein a plurality of interior bonds join the first surface with the second surface, the interior bonds being spaced inward from the sidewall.

4. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 2, wherein the reinforcing structure has a first portion, a second portion, and a plurality of connecting portions extending between the first portion and the second portion.

5. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 4, wherein the first portion is secured to the bladder at an interface between the first surface and the sidewall, and the second portion is secured to the bladder at an interface between the second surface and the sidewall.

30. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 26, wherein a space between two adjacent connecting portions is positioned in a rear-lateral region of the sole structure.

31. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 26, wherein the first portion has a generally u-shaped configuration that extends along a lateral side of the bladder, around a heel region of the bladder, and along a medial side of the bladder.

32. (Withdrawn) The article of footwear recited in claim 31, wherein at least one bridge member extends laterally across the bladder and connects opposite sides of at least one of the first portion and the second portion.

33. (Withdrawn) The article of footwear recited in claim 31, wherein extensions of the reinforcing structure extend outward from the bladder and are secured to the upper.

34. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 26, wherein a plurality of interior bonds join the first surface with the second surface, the interior bonds being spaced inward from the sidewall.

35. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 26, wherein at least one flexion indentation is formed in the second surface, and a space that includes the fluid extends between the indentation and the first surface.

36. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 35, wherein at least one ~~inferior~~ bond joins the first surface with the indentation, the at least one interior bond being spaced inward from the sidewall.

37. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 26, wherein the bladder and reinforcing structure are secured directly to the upper.

38. (Cancelled)

49. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 47, wherein the first sheet forms the first surface and the sidewall, and the second sheet forms the second surface, the first sheet and the second sheet being joined together around a periphery of the bladder to form a peripheral bond.

50. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 26, wherein the bladder and the reinforcing structure form a beveled area in a rear lateral area of the sole structure.

51-79. (Cancelled)

80. (Original) An article of footwear having an upper and a sole structure secured to the upper, the sole structure comprising:

a bladder extending from a lateral side to a medial side of the sole structure and through a substantial portion of a longitudinal length of the sole structure, the bladder being formed of a barrier material and having a first surface, an opposite second surface, and a sidewall extending between the first surface and the second surface, and the bladder enclosing a pressurized fluid that exerts an outward force upon the barrier material, the barrier material having a first modulus of elasticity; and

a reinforcing structure having a first portion, a second portion, and a plurality of connecting portions, the first portion being secured to the bladder at an interface between the first surface and the sidewall, the second portion being secured to the bladder at an interface between the second surface and the sidewall, and the connecting portions extending between the first portion and the second portion, the connecting portions being at least partially recessed into the sidewall and bonded to the sidewall, the reinforcing structure being formed of a second material having a second modulus of elasticity, the first modulus of elasticity being less than the second modulus of elasticity.

81. (Original) The article of footwear recited in claim 80, wherein the bladder and reinforcing structure are secured directly to the upper.

82. (Cancelled)